Failure of PDS in Andhra Pradesh

1682. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that PDS in Andhra Pradesh has virtually failed due to inability of the State Government to ensure that PDS items reach to the actual beneficiaries and also due to various scams of diverting PDS items to open market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to save the PDS system in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foodgrain Stock

1683. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the existing foodgrain stocks in the country;

(b) the details of minimum necessary buffer stocks;

(c) the expenditure incurred in accumulation and maintenance of one million tonne of stock per day; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to disburse the excess stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) The stock of rice and wheat as on 31st October, 2002 in the Central Pool was 205.09 lakh tonnes and 330.59 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) The minimum prescribed buffer stocking norms of rice and wheat as on 1st October, 2002 was 65 lakh tonnes and 116 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) As per budget for the year 2002-03 (BE), the expenditure on